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The cry of all the alumnae associations is, Why do not the young graduates come in? Why this wave of indifference? It is not a wave of indifference but a quiet demonstration that the private duty nurse is no longer under the wire-puller or the big stick. The labor unions treat their members better and respect their rights. The leaders of the nursing profession are the last to wake up to the fact that outside of the particular job they are paid for they have no more rights than the last graduate. It is hard to understand why such intelligent women do not show more respect for the rights of others. The private nurses who are quietly ignoring the wire-puller and the big stick are like children who have grown up in spite of their parents.

ALWAYS A PRIVATE DUTY NURSE.

STERILIZATION IN THE HOME

DEAR EDITOR: I take great pleasure in reading the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING* and look forward each month to the new number. I am a private duty nurse and would like to know some of my sister nurses' methods of sterilization of goods in private homes.

In preparing for an operation in a private house when the surgeon does not bring his own sterile goods a great responsibility rests with the nurse.

May I hear from some of you?

A. M. L., '09.

TALKS TO SCHOOL CHILDREN

DEAR EDITOR: Your suggestions are very helpful, and though I have been kept from giving the talks I wrote you of, on sex questions, etc., I hope to be able to work up to it some day. I feel that I don't want to "rush in where angels fear to tread," so am gathering the material with which to saturate myself, as you suggest. I shall watch with interest what may come out from time to time in the *JOURNAL* regarding this subject.

The last *JOURNAL* was a particularly helpful one to me, the articles all being so very practical and up-to-date, and that's what we most need, it seems to me. I do not know which article appealed to me most, *all* were so good. We all want to know more and more concerning infantile paralysis, so I was very glad of that article, also the one on pneumonia.

I am always glad too of suggestions for the entertainment of the convalescent children. I usually try to get them to manufacture as many of their own playthings as possible. We've made our own checker boards, etc.; and the puzzle games are easily made. The pasting of pictures on cardboard, or paste board, and cutting into irregular shapes is very easy and proves enticing often—oftentimes more easy than the later fitting together of pieces.

I have had two patients with deep fissured nipples who have suffered untold agonies while nursing their babies. I think perhaps—am hoping—that the fault lay in that care of nipples was not started early enough. One who is pregnant again is starting in early with the simple cleanly care—using something to soften any secretions at night, and washing with soap and water in the morning. Do you think she should use anything to harden them? Some authorities say one thing and some another.

M. T. M.

AN ENDLESS CHAIN

DEAR EDITOR: I have received an "endless chain letter," asking me to send ten cancelled stamps to some one in New South Wales, and to make copies of the letter to send to other persons who are to do the same. The letter is written in behalf of a children's ward which needs funds and asserts that if 5,000,000 cancelled stamps are sent within a specified time, enough money will be raised to admit more children.

I have sent copies of the letter, as requested, but would very much like to know about the same. Perhaps I am ignorant, but I cannot see how cancelled stamps in Australia can build a ward. A. W.

[The post-office department of Rochester informs us that it knows of no value in cancelled stamps except that, among five million, there might be a few of rare date or kind which might have a money value for collectors.—Ed.]

A COURSE FOR THE "SOCIAL NURSE"

DEAR EDITOR: With the end of the college year in sight, and also the terminating of the first year of the course given at Teachers College, N. Y., in "District Nursing and Health Protection," the writer wishes to express her gratitude to those members of her profession who have by their endless forethought and energy made it possible for graduate nurses to fit themselves for social and district work. Also, at the same time she wishes to show her appreciation of having been one of the fortunate persons permitted to take the course, and to answer a question which has been asked time and time again by others, viz., "Is it worth while?" This her readers must answer for themselves after reading this short outline which is but a poor attempt to portray the fulness of a course which has been of such great value to one of its students. In September, 1910, through the munificence of Mrs. Helen Hartley Jenkins, Teachers College, Columbia University, was able to create a new course in the Department of Nursing and Health, known as District Nursing and Health Protection, which is designed to prepare graduate nurses and others for the various fields of social, preventive, and educational work to which they are constantly being called and for which as yet little or no adequate training has been given. Nurses are to be congratulated that they were the first to see the crying need of a broader preparation than the hospital training schools have as yet supplied; although there is a rather wide-spread improvement in their curricula within the last few years, the evolution of which must surely be brought about, I mean that of training their nurses to the "social aspect" of their patient's life. The need of the trained nurse has never before been so clearly indicated as it is to-day in the many branches of preventive and health work, and nurses ought not to let their chance slip by. Their hospital training makes a splendid foundation for this field, but needs further building upon, and it is with this superstructure that the administrators of the department of nursing and health are engaged. Their plan is to use this solid and necessary groundwork as a basis for the building of the social nurse, who will thereby be equipped for the field, not only with the narrow view of life obtained from her hospital but with the broader aspect which takes into consideration all that relates to the patient's welfare.

In order to obtain this view the nurse must know the national characteristics of the various races with which she will come in contact which she must